

question	answer	page
Who is the author of Sarah Journeys West?	Nikki Shannon Smith	cover
Where did the Lewis family live before they headed west?	Montgomery County, Iowa	5
In what year did the Lewis family start heading west?	1851	5
Why did many people move to California in the 1850's?	To find gold	5
What was the name of the road people traveled on to get to California and Oregon?	The Oregon Trail	5
What was the name of Sarah's 14 year old brother?	James	6
What food did the Lewis family raise on their farm?	Vegetables, eggs, and hogs	6
Why didn't the Lewis family raise and eat meat?	Sarah's dad didn't have the heart to kill animals.	6
Why did Henry Tucker only take his oldest son, Charlie, with him on the journey west?	He thought the trip was too dangerous for his wife and younger children.	6
How long did it take people to travel from Iowa to California in the 1850's?	About 6 months.	8
Where did James Lewis want to get a job in Iowa?	At the general store.	8
How were Sarah and James opposites?	He cared about money, she cared about school and learning reading and math.	10
Why did James' dad tell him he couldn't work at the general store?	He was taking him with him west on the Oregon Trail.	10
What was Sarah's dad's name?	Theo Lewis	12
What was Sarah's mom's name?	Ada Lewis	13
How old was Sarah?	twelve	13
What were Black people called in the 1850's?	Negroes	15
What journey had Sarah's grandparents made when they were younger?	They escaped from slavery	17

What did Sarah's grandma say about the journey west compared to her own journey to freedom?	Her journey was more dangerous.	17
What did Sarah's granddaddy do sometimes at night?	Sat in a rocking chair outside on the porch	17
What did Sarah's grandma tell her dad about women traveling on the Oregon Trail?	A woman can do anything a man can do.	20
What color was the quilt Sarah's grandma made for her when she was a baby?	green	21
What did Sarah's granny make for her 5th birthday?	A doll	21
What was the place called where people would gather together before leaving on the Oregon Trail?	The jumping off point	28
Where was Sarah's family's first stop on the way to California on the Oregon Trail?	Kanesville, Iowa	28
What animals pulled Sarah's family wagon west?	Four oxen	28
What did Sarah's dad do with their horses?	Sent them back to her granddad (his father)	28
What did Mr. Adams refuse to do when he met Theo Lewis and Henry Tucker?	Mr. Adams	30
Why did Sarah and James have to go to school in an old lady's barn?	They weren't allowed to go to school with the white kids.	30
Why did Mr. Adams think he should be the captain of the group traveling west?	He had a map, hunting experience, and he was strong.	32
Why did Mr. Lee think he should be the captain of the group traveling west?	He was the one who got the group together.	32
Why did Mr. Adams think that Henry Tucker, Theo Lewis, and James shouldn't be allowed to vote for captain?	He said Negroes weren't allowed to vote.	32

How many men were in the group heading to west with Sarah?	nine	32
Why did Mr. Lee say they would have to walk after they crossed the Missouri River?	They didn't want the wagons to be too heavy	33
What was the Missouri River dangerous?	The current was strong	33
What happened in the Missouri River because of the strong current?	It pulled two oxen down and they drowned.	36
What did they do with the wagons so they could get them across the Missouri River?	They loaded them on to a flat boat.	37
Who swam in the river to guide the flat boat with the wagons across the Missouri River?	Sarah's dad, Theo Lewis.	38
What did Sarah do to stay calm while they crossed the Missouri River?	She focused on the girl in her group who was waving to her and smiling.	38
What was the order of the wagons in Sarah's group as they traveled after they crossed the Missouri River?	Mr. Lee's wagon Mr. Adams's wagon The Edwards brothers' wagon The Lewis's wagon Mr. Tuckers wagon A wagon with a man, his wife, and the man's mother	40
What did Sarah think of the experience traveling on the Oregon trail?	It was boring.	40
Why did Theo Lewis decide to bring the Tuckers and go make friends with the Lee family?	The families were traveling together but were suspicious of each other.	42
What was Mr. Lee's wife's name?	Cora	42
What was Mr. Lee's daughter's name?	Mattie	44
What was Mattie Lee's 5-year-old brother's name?	William	44
What was the name of the man, his wife, and his mother who traveled in the sixth wagon?	Nicholas Carter, Hannah, and Nicholas's mother, Miss Edith	47
Who were the Carters going to join in California?	Family who had already been there for two years.	48

What was the land called outside of Iowa that wasn't a state?	Indian territory	48
Why didn't Theo Lewis want to kill any Indians?	They were there first and the land was their home.	48
What did Miss Edith say she remembered when the Native Americans got pushed off their land?	The Black Hawk War	50
What did present day Nebraska used to be part of in 1851?	The Great Plains	51
What river is Fort Kearny next to?	The Platte River	51
What was the only good thing about Mr. Adams?	He played the fiddle.	52
Why did Mattie and Sarah like drinking coffee, even though they didn't really like how it tasted?	It was warm in the cold morning	52
What did Theo Lewis do when Mr. Adams raised his gun to shoot the Indians on the other side of the Platte River?	He stood in the line of fire.	54
Who grabbed the gun away from Mr. Adams when he was fighting with Theo Lewis (Sarah's dad)?	Mr. Lee	54
What did the Native Americans do to help Sarah's traveling group cross the Platte River?	They took them across the river on their raft in exchange for a gun.	57-58
Why did James almost cry when he had to give his gun to his dad?	His granddaddy had given him the gun.	58
Which gun did Theo Lewis give to the Native Americans?	His gun	58
Why did Theo feel so strongly about defending the Native Americans?	He understood how they felt--their people got stolen from their homes, and the Native American's homes were stolen from them.	58
Which men in the group voted for Mr. Adams to be the captain of the group?	The Edwards brothers, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Carter	59
Why was it a good sign when they made it to Chimney Rock?	It meant they weren't lost.	59

What did Sarah hear Mr. Adams say to Mr. Edwards?	I can't stand Lewis. I should have shot him when I had the chance. I need to put him in his place.	61
What did present day Wyoming used to be part of in 1851?	The Great Plains	62
What signs did Sarah see that other wagon trains had traveled west before them?	Broken wagon pieces, abandoned stoves, and burned wagons along the trail.	62
What was the worst thing Sarah saw on her journey west?	Graves of people who died along the way.	62
What did people die of along the Oregon Trail?	Starvation, accidents, snake bites, and illnesses like Cholera	62
What did Sarah mostly eat on the Oregon Trail that she got tired of?	Hard bread and beans	63
Where is Fort Laramie?	Wyoming	63
Why was Fort Laramie better than Fort Kearny?	It had three bakeries, a blacksmith, and a wagon maker's shop.	63
What did Mattie give to Sarah to eat that was sweet?	Dried fruit	65
What two signs of cholera did Mr. Carter's mother have?	Dehydration (not enough water in her body) and upset stomach	65
What famous rock in Wyoming did many travelers carve their names into?	Independence Rock	67
What bad thing happened at Independence Rock?	Miss Edith Carter died and Mattie got lost	67
Why didn't Mr. Adams want to wait and find Mattie?	He said a delay might cause them to get stuck in the mountains in winter	70
Why did Theo tell his son, James, to keep his distance from the Carters?	They might be sick with Cholera, since their mother had died from it.	70
What would Sarah have done if she had gotten lost?	Stayed where she was until they found her.	74
What did Sarah figure out Mattie probably had done to find her way when she was lost?	Followed the ruts from the wagon wheels	74
How did people get clean on the Oregon Trail?	They got in the rivers	74

What did Mr. Lee say when Theo scolded Sarah for following them?	She may have saved his daughter, Mattie's, life.	79
What did the Carters decide to do after Miss Edith Carter died?	They decided to turn around and go home.	79
Why were the Carters going to California?	To bring joy to his mom who loved adventure and had been sad after her husband died.	79
What did Mr. Adams and the Edwards brothers do while the rest of them searched for Mattie?	Mr. Adams declared himself the captain and they left without them.	80
Why did Mattie wander off and get lost?	She had to go to the bathroom and wanted some privacy.	82
How did Mr. Lee know how to get them to the Rocky Mountains?	He had a map and a book of notes.	82
What is the shortcut called in the Rocky Mountains?	The Hastings Cutoff	84
What is the name of the pass through the Rocky Mountains?	The South Pass	84
What was Fort Hall made of?	adobe	86
Why was Theo Lewis worried when he realized they were at Fort Hall?	He realized they had traveled too far north and had missed the Hastings Cutoff to the California branch of the trail.	86
How did missing the Hastings Cutoff maybe save their lives?	The Hastings Cutoff had no water for 90 miles.	86
What month did they have to get through the Rocky Mountains before the end of so they wouldn't be stuck in snow?	October	86
Why did Sarah's wagon party unload all the extra weight from their wagons?	They had to go faster to get through the Rocky Mountains before winter came	88
What mountains are just east of California?	The Sierra Nevada mountains	91
What was the name of the family that got stuck in the Sierra Nevada mountains in winter?	The Donner party	91

What path had someone at Fort Hall told Mr. Lee to use to get through the Sierra Nevada mountains?	The Beckwourth Pass	92
Why did the men chop logs and put them in front of the wagon wheels when they were west of Beckwourth Pass in the Sierra Nevada mountains?	It would slow the wagons down on the slope so they wouldn't speed down and crash.	94
What happened to Sarah's family's wagon?	It crashed at the bottom of the hill	97
What had Granddaddy made for Sarah and her mom at Christmas?	Wooden treasure boxes	98
What did Ada Lewis keep inside her wooden treasure box?	A locket from her mother who had died when Ada was little.	98
What did Sarah Lewis keep inside her wooden treasure box?	Tiny wooden birds her Granddaddy had carved for her.	98
What town did Sarah and her wagon party arrive to in California on November 1, 1851?	Coloma	99
What amazed Sarah about Coloma?	People of all different races lived and worked together.	99
What was the name of the woman Sarah's family met in Coloma, California?	Nancy Gooch	102
How long had Nancy Gooch lived in Coloma, California when the Lewis's arrived?	Two years	102
What happened in California in 1850?	The Compromise of 1850, making California a free state, so Nancy Gooch and other former slaves became free.	102
What did Nancy Gooch tell the Lewis family about where the real wealth was in Coloma?	Cleaning, sewing, and selling homemade food to the gold miners	103
What did Theo and Ada decide to do in order to make a living in Coloma?	He would mine for gold and she could cook food to sell.	103
What did Mattie suggest to Sarah they do to make money?	Make biscuits and sell them.	103

What did Sarah decide to call the biscuits she and Mattie would make to sell to the miners?	Golden Biscuits	105
How many Native Americans lived in California before Europeans arrived?	About 300,000	107
By 1860, how many Native Americans were left in California?	Fewer than 30,000	107
What was Kaneshville, Iowa renamed to in 1853?	Council Bluffs	107
What was a popular jumping off point to the Oregon Trail in Missouri?	Independence	107
Who is Beckwourth Pass named for?	James Beckwourth, an African American man born into slavery in Virginia who was freed and moved west.	107
What jobs did James Beckwourth do?	Blacksmith, explorer, trapper, mountain man, and military scout	107
Why did they name the Beckwourth Pass after James Beckwourth?	He cleared and improved the trail that the Native Americans had created	107
What tribe of Indians did James Beckwourth claim to have captured him and thought he was the son of a chief?	The Crow Indians	107
In what years did James Beckwourth live?	1798 to 1866	107
What was the title of James Beckwourth's autobiography that was published in 1856?	The Life and Adventures of James P. Beckwourth	108
In what years did Nancy Ross Gooch live?	1811 to 1901	108
How did Nancy Ross Gooch earn money to buy her son's freedom and bring him to California?	Washing and mending cloths and cooking	108
How many acres of land did Nancy Ross Gooch and her husband, Peter, own in 1858?	Eighty acres	108
What usually causes cholera?	Infected water	110